

# Sermon Outline: **Are You Born Again?**

(based on John 3:1-17)

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## I. Introduction

A. **Poll** – How many of you were “born Christian”?

B. **None** of us! “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born *again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

## II. What does it mean to be “born again”?

A. Nicodemus: “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” (v. 4).

B. Evangelical Christianity: Being “born again” means that you have made a decision for Christ or accepted him as your Savior or asked Jesus to come into your heart.

C. *anōthen* = “again; *from above*”

1. God’s doing, not ours! (See John 1:12-13) → Pure grace!

2. “Not of blood” = not born into it

3. “Nor of the will of the flesh” = not a human decision/effort

4. “Nor of the will of man [*andros*, husband]” = someone else can’t decide for you

## III. Jesus: “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit” (v. 5).

A. Water + Spirit = Baptism! (Titus 3:5)

B. “The wind [*to pneuma*] blows where it wishes...” (John 3:8).

1. Wind

2. Breath

3. Spirit

C. Pun on all three in Genesis 2 (creation of Adam) and Ezekiel 37 (valley of dry bones)

D. Unpredictability – You never know what a Christian will do next!

## IV. *How* are we born again of water and the Spirit?

A. Nicodemus: “How can these things be?!” (John 3:9)

- B. Earthly vs. heavenly things
- C. Serpent in the wilderness // Son of Man lifted up on cross (vv. 13-15)
- D. Gospel in a nutshell: “**G**od so loved the world, that he gave his **o**nly **S**on, that whoever believes in him should not **p**erish but have **e**ternal **l**ife” (John 3:16).
- E. God gives faith in Christ through water and the Word (Baptism and Gospel).

**Redo the Poll:**

- How many of you were born Christians?
- How many of you are born *again / from above* Christians?

V. Encountering Jesus

- A. No one is ever the same after meeting Jesus.
- B. Nicodemus’s start (v. 2)
  1. Unbeliever (he came “by night” = darkness of unbelief)
  2. Self-sure (“We know”)
- C. Nicodemus’s “end”?
  1. He defended Jesus before the Sanhedrin (John 7:50-51).
  2. He helped to bury Jesus (John 19:38-39).
- D. How will your encounter with Jesus change you?

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).**

- E. “God so loved the world...” means God so loved **you!**